



Mr. + Mrs. Charles E. Loops
5418-13th St, N.W.
Washington, (D) D.C.

U.S.A.

Censored by:
FW Loops, H.A.C.

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 21043



Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Leaps
5418-13th St. N.W.
Washington, (D) D.C.
U.S.A.

H. Frank W. Leaps C-667522
(Sender's name)
432 Sgd. 17th Bomb. Grp.
(Sender's address)
A.P.O. 650, 8th Postmaster N.Y.C.
May 3, 1944
(Date)

Hello, Folks.

Got a couple of V-mails from Sister today - the first mail in several days. Quite a nice feeling to have a little mail come in, too. - The one letter wasn't a letter - but a poem!

You should see me trying to play an accordion these days! - One of the officers got one from some place and I borrowed it. Got some sheet music and mastered the piano type book for a couple of songs! - Even picked out a couple of others by ear. (You should see me read music - takes about 10 seconds for me to read off the 'staff' to decide what note it is! - & that way for each note, too!) I believe I can master that just alright - but the left hand has me stumped. - All those little black buttons for your left hand are 'ends' already made up. - Major & minor ones of all keys. - Guess you just have to place 'em all of those and fit 'em in with the other notes. Am afraid it's too difficult to do according to Hogle - but it sure is fun to play around with.

a mission again tomorrow, so keep 'em crossed - but had a lovely day on the home stretch now?

V - MAIL

Love to you & love,
Frank

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

432 Sqdn., 17th Bomb. Gp.
A.P.O. 650, %Postmaster N.Y.C.
April 24, 1944

Hiya Folks,

Was going to write you
yesterday from the Red Cross
in Algiers - and really don't know
why I didn't! Didn't do much
all day to count. Spent most of
it at the airport and then
went into town.

When I got in, there was
a dance in progress (still dwelling
on the R.C.), a tea dance, if you
please! - Well - just made myself
an interested spectator and watched.
Gee, Whizz - such rag cutting you
never saw. - All the officers have
been around there so long that
the local population jitter bugs
with the best of 'em! There is

2!

also a snack bar thru of great attraction. - They are opened in between regular meal hours and besides the usual spam, cheese, peanut butter, etc, they always manage to have cake or cookies. - And that's where I really shine! - I mean I had a real ice-cream sundae at the officer's club and some ice-cold cokes! - Now what more could a fellow ask after having been away from civilization so long?

This afternoon we returned to base and I guess I earned every last nickel of my pay, - at least for today! You have never seen so much of instruments & as I did for a couple of hours! Think it was the first time I

3! was ever caught in such weather
strickly on my own. - Every other
time I've either had an older,
more experienced pilot along, - or
been co-pilot - never was the
full weight resting on me! -
Must admit I was calling for a
littl aid just as over the target,
and together He "dood" it!
Sure was glad to set my feet
on some terra firma - I kid
you not!

A high point in my trips is
always the coming home and
finding lots of mail awaiting
me - well then - just one letter!
Had about 6 V-mails. - From Sister,
Fred, + Brother! - After all, I was
away for 5 days so I should
have had a collection! - Glad
Sister + Mama got their Easter

41
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flowers O.K. - They had several kinds I could have sent, but most of them I couldn't ~~find~~ remember what they looked like from their names! - That just goes to show you the length of time I've been away from such things! Anyhow, I did remember what geraniums looked like, so for once, I knew what I was sending!

Had quite an odd experience in Algiers yesterday. He wanted to go to Church in the A.M. - so looked around for a place on the bulletin boards. Finally, the only thing we could find, and that in the Stars + Stripes, was a place at such and such an address where "protestant services for English speaking troops were given" - after much roaming around -

5!
-- an inquiry among the Arabs,
we found it. - It turned out to be
a Methodist Missionary place,
complete with the missionary and
his wife! - They were very nice -
and had a good service for about
the 5 or 6 who came! - Everything
was just as you read about in these
stories of foreign missionaries. And
with little imagination you could
picture yourself in any one of a
hundred places you had read
about! -

Well, I'm back at the field, as
I said before, and back down to
the hard realities of war! - Please
jump all over - tomorrow I go out
on a different kind - according to
the schedule. - I like to think
each one takes me one mission
nearer home - so keep your
fingers crossed for awhile longer. You

6!
-- never can tell but what
I'll be ringing ye olde door bell,
but soon!

Lots of Love
Frank